

From: David Jantzen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 8:25am
Subject: Proposed settlement will extend MS monopoly

The suggested remedy in the Microsoft antitrust case is not an adequate reprimand for the illegal behaviors through which Microsoft has maintained its monopoly. Moreover, it is difficult to imagine that the remedy would successfully curtail future monopolistic behaviors; rather, it will merely result in the indoctrination of an entire new generation into the use of Microsoft products.

As a software developer, my greatest concerns are 1) the closed file formats that Microsoft regularly modifies, resulting in broken compatibility with competing software products; 2) proprietary extensions to open standards (the so called "embrace and extend" tactic) that hinder interoperability with non-Microsoft products; and 3) the highly restrictive licenses to which Microsoft holds PC manufacturers, which appear to prevent the factory installation of competing operating systems alongside of Windows.

A world in which file formats and communication protocols are open standards, and in which PC manufacturer's have greater freedom, will result in much enhanced competition and hence a better experience for the consumer.

Sincerely,
David Jantzen
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